

NEOS Operation Center

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Abstract This report covers the activities of the NEOS Operation Center at USNO for 2015 and 2016. The Operation Center schedules IVS-R4 and the INT1 Intensive sessions.

at the Washington Correlator, which is located at USNO and is run by NEOS.

1 VLBI Operations

NEOS operations in the period covered consisted, each week, of one 24-hour duration IVS-R4 observing session, on Thursday-Friday, for Earth Orientation, together with five daily one-hour duration “Intensives” for UT1 determination, Monday through Friday. In 2015–2016, the operational IVS-R4 network included VLBI stations at Kokee Park (Hawaii), Wettzell (Germany), Ny-Ålesund (Norway), Fortaleza (Brazil), Tsukuba (Japan), Svetloe, Badary and Zelenchuk-skaya (Russia), Hobart, Katherine, and Yarragadee (Australia), Yebes (Spain), and Matera and Medicina (Italy). A typical R4 consisted of eight to 12 stations. The regular stations for the weekday IVS Intensives were Kokee Park and Wettzell. Intensives including Kokee Park, Wettzell, and Svetloe were occasionally scheduled in order to characterize the Kokee Park to Svetloe baseline so that Svetloe can be used as an alternate for Wettzell should it be needed. The Tsukuba–Wettzell baseline was observed for eight weeks while Kokee Park was undergoing repairs. The Operation Center updated the version of *sked* as updates became available. All sessions are correlated

2 Staff

D. M. Hall and M. S. Carter are the only staff members of the NEOS Operation Center. Mr. Hall is responsible for the overall management, and Carter makes the schedules. M. S. Carter is located at the USNO Flagstaff Station (NOFS).

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